



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

The Honorable James O. Eastland
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Eastland:

I am writing to confirm our conversation of last evening regarding the exercise of the parole authority vested in me to permit the entry into the United States of certain South Vietnamese and Cambodians. I am grateful for your co-operation and concurrence in this matter.

As we discussed, I received late yesterday afternoon from Henry A. Kissinger, as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, an urgent request for the immediate parole of:

STATINTL

1. Up to [] "high risk" Vietnamese refugees, and their families. These would include past and present U. S. government employees, Vietnamese officials whose co-operation is necessary for the evacuation of American citizens, individuals with knowledge of sensitive U. S. government intelligence operations, vulnerable political or intellectual figures and former Communist defectors;
2. Vietnamese nationals who are immediate relatives of American citizens or permanent resident aliens, estimated to number between []
3. Vietnamese already at Clark Air Force base provided they qualify as high risk individuals;

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STATINTL

4. Approximately [] Cambodians now in Thailand who had been evacuated from Cambodia by the U. S.; and

DOJ review(s) completed.

- 2 -

STATINTL

5. Approximately Cambodian diplomats in third countries facing forcible return or expulsion.

The President agreed that parole is desirable for the foregoing classes. The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was advised in writing on April 18, 1975 of the proposal to parole those listed in categories 2 through 5, although at that time the request regarding Clark Air Force base was limited to 100.

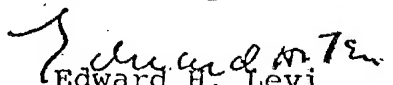
We were advised that it was deemed essential to begin at once to assist the departure from Vietnam of appropriate individuals if such an effort were to be orderly and successful. However, there was reluctance to initiate such a program without the assurance that those so assisted could, if necessary, be admitted to the United States.

The foregoing was discussed with you and Senator Hruska and, as indicated, the Departments of State and Defense were prepared to assist in providing you with an immediate briefing on the developments which generated this request for parole. We greatly appreciate your concurrence on behalf of the Committee regarding the parole of the classes described above. Your counterparts in the House of Representatives also concurred in this proposal and I have exercised the parole power to authorize the entry of those classes.

We are advised, however, that every effort will be made to obtain international assistance for all Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees and to arrange their resettlement in third countries.

I regret that events have been such that it was necessary to take up these matters with you in this manner last evening. I greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,


Edward H. Levi
Attorney General

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 75-0842/A

1 MAY 1975

~~30 APR 1975~~

Executive Registry

25-1091/A

Honorable Robert W. Kastenmeier, Chairman
Subcommittee on Courts, Civil Liberties, and the
Administration of Justice
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

STATOTHR

This is in reply to your letter dated 16 April 1975 on behalf of [] and inquiring as to the Agency's procedures for the handling of requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

STATOTHR

We regret the delay in the handling of [] request. I have been advised that he should be receiving a reply shortly. Some delay was caused by the need for additional identifying information to assure that Agency information is not sent to the wrong person. The principal reason for the delay is the unusually large numbers of requests, about 800, received by the Agency in a period of several weeks. This has created a taxing burden on Agency assets.

Prompted by the recent amendments to the Freedom of Information Act last year, a separate office was established to handle requests under the Act. However, the large volume of requests received in such a short period of time far exceeded our expectations. Regardless, we are exerting every effort to avoid undue delays. All available Agency personnel are being utilized to reduce the large backlog. Certain personnel are also being temporarily reassigned to help out. This diversion of personnel, however, must not jeopardize the carrying out of the Agency's mission.

STATOTHR

I appreciate your interest on behalf of [] and trust that you understand our position in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby.

W. E. Colby
Director

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

0842

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Legislative Counsel

EXTENSION

6121

NO.

OLC 75-0842/A

DATE

28 April 1975

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

OLC
Director

4/30

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Attached for your signature is a letter to Representative Kastenmeier in response to his letter expressing concern that the Agency is not being responsive in the handling of requests under the Freedom of Information Act. This has been coordinated with the FOI coordinator.

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George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

Attachment